

Congress Investigates: The Senate Investigation of the Stock Exchange during the Great Depression

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Worksheet 1: Reviewing the Background Summary

1. What issue was the Senate Banking Investigation created to study?
2. Who was Ferdinand Pecora, and how did he increase the effectiveness of the committee's work?
3. What factors influenced public opinion in favor of increased government regulation of the stock market?
4. What lasting effects did the Pecora Investigation have on the U.S. economy?



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Worksheet 2: Document Analysis

1. Who wrote the document and when?
2. To whom is it addressed?
3. Based on evidence in the document, why did the author write it?
4. What does this document say about how the government should address economic issues?
5. What does this document say about how Stock Market activities affected Americans?
6. How credible is the author on the topic of the document?
7. What does this document contribute to your understanding of the lesson's Guiding Question: What did the work of the Pecora Committee show about Congress's responsibility to investigate issues of concern, and how did correspondence sent to the committee illustrate the range of public opinions about increased government regulation of Wall Street during the Great Depression?



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Worksheet 3: Reflection Questions

1. How did the Pecora Investigation demonstrate Congress' power to investigate?
2. How did the Pecora Investigation inform the public about the need for legislation?
3. Why was it important that Congress play a leading role in regulating actions that could have consequential and long-lasting effects on the economy?

